

0557-4524-2



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

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IN RE APPLICATION OF :  
Nobuaki TOMIDOKORO, et al. : GROUP ART UNIT: 2622  
SERIAL NO. 09/195,604 :  
FILED: November 19, 1998 : EXAMINER: POKRZYWA, J.  
FOR: IMAGE FORMING DEVICE :  
MANAGEMENT SYSTEM :

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TC 3700 MAIL ROOM

PROVISIONAL ELECTION

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

In response to the Official Action mailed October 23, 2001, Applicants provisionally elect, with traverse, Group I, Claims 1-7 for further examination on the merits in the present application. Applicants make this election based on the understanding that Applicants are not prejudiced against filing one or more divisional applications that cover the non-elected claims.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Restriction Requirement for the following reason.

MPEP § 803 states:

If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions.

The claims of the present invention would appear to be part of an overlapping search area.

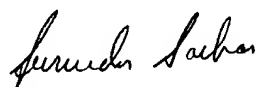
The PTO Manual of Classification, found on the PTO website, references class 399, subclass 9+ as search areas for Class 358. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully traverse the

outstanding Restriction Requirement on the grounds that a search and examination of the entire application would not place a serious burden on the Examiner.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Restriction Requirement be withdrawn. However, if the present Requirement is not withdrawn, examination on the merits of Claims 1-7 is believed to be in order, and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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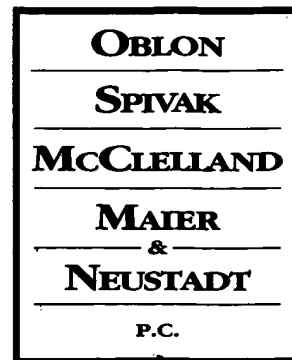
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Re: U.S. Application  
Serial No: 09/195,604  
Filed: November 19, 1998  
Group: 2622  
Inventor: Nobuaki TOMIDOKORO, et al.  
For: IMAGE FORMING DEVICE  
MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

SIR:

Attached hereto for filing are the following papers:

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#### PROVISIONAL ELECTION

Our check in the amount of \$0.00 is attached covering any required fees. In the event that any variance exists between the amount enclosed and the Patent Office charges for filing the above-noted documents, including any fees required under 37 CFR 1.136 for any necessary Extension of Time to make the filing of the attached documents timely, please charge or credit our Deposit Account No. 15-0030. Further, if these papers are not considered timely filed, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for the necessary extension of time. A duplicate copy of this sheet is attached.

Respectfully submitted,

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